

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



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### Kraut Canners Asked to Report Packs

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is collecting statistics on the 1929 pack of canned sauerkraut, the figures to be announced at the Kraut Section meeting during the annual convention in Chicago. The Bureau states that some kraut packers have not returned the schedule sent to them on which to report their packs, and they are earnestly urged to submit their reports at once, in order that the figures may be compiled in time for the convention.

### Airplane Line Offers Special Rates to Convention

The Stout Air Services, Inc., operating the Chicago-Detroit Air Line, offer special rates between Cleveland and Chicago via Detroit for those who will attend the convention in Chicago. Through service is provided by this line leaving Cleveland at 1.00 p. m. Central time and arriving at Chicago at 5.15 p. m. The plane leaves Detroit at 3.15 p. m. Eastern time.

Members desiring validation certificates for the special rates and timetables of the service may obtain them from the Association.

### Forecast of Canned Food Carload Shipments

Shipment of canned food products, including ketchup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, etc., during the first quarter of 1930, are estimated by the Shippers' Regional Advisory Boards at 44,257 carloads, as compared with actual shipments of 42,374 carloads in the first quarter of 1929, an increase of 4.4 per cent.

Shipments of the 29 principal commodities of all kinds during the first quarter, it is estimated, will be six-tenths of 1 per cent smaller than during the corresponding period of 1929.

### Index of Weekly Letter

In this week's issue appears the regular semi-annual index of the Information Letter. It is so printed that those who maintain files of the Letter can remove the index from this issue and bind it in following the last issue of the Letter for 1929.

### Army Asks Bids on Canned Milk

The Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn, N. Y., is asking for bids on 203,040 one-pound cans of evaporated, unsweetened milk, 48,000 cans for delivery at Fort Benning, Ga., and 155,040 cans for delivery at Brooklyn, N. Y. Bids are to be opened at 10.00 A. M. January 17th, and copies of the schedule on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn.

### Truck Crop Markets

Fruit and vegetable shipments dropped to a very low point during Christmas week, totaling only 9,055 cars of 25 products. The decline of citrus movement was most noticeable. Shipments of 870 cars of oranges were only about half as heavy as the week before. Florida originated 320 cars and California most of the rest. Forwardings of grapefruit decreased to 230 cars.

Movement of strawberries and string beans from Florida had slowed down quite a bit. Most of the tomatoes were coming from Cuba, 110 carloads last week, while Mexico shipped 40 cars to the United States and Florida originated 10 cars. Mexican green-pea shipments were averaging 25 cars a day.

New York cabbage shipments increased to nearly 300 cars, but Wisconsin moved only 105 cars. New stock was still in rather limited supply, with 40 cars from southern Texas and 30 from Florida last week.

Apple shipments were quite light, totaling only 780 cars, of which 500 came from the West. Eastern movement was only half as heavy as a year ago. About 390 cars rolled from Washington, as against 110 from New York and 120 from the Virginias.

Sweet potato shipments increased to 430 cars for the week, and Delaware, Maryland and Tennessee were the chief sources of supply.

The production of Florida and California citrus fruits will be about one-third lighter than last season. California oranges may amount to only 24,000,000 boxes, as against a crop of al-

most 39,000,000 last year. Florida oranges and grapefruit together are expected to total 16,000,000 boxes. California lemons also will be less plentiful. Other southern states growing grapefruit have larger crops this season.

### Reaffirms Finding on Wisconsin Rates to East

The Interstate Commerce Commission, upon reconsideration, has reaffirmed its findings in its original report holding as not unreasonable the rates on canned foods in carloads from points in Wisconsin to destinations in New York, New Jersey and New England. The original decision in this case was reported in the Information Letter for November 3, 1928.

### Decision in Western and Illinois Territory Rate Case

Proposed increases in the less-than-carload ratings in Western and Illinois classifications on soups, canned and preserved vegetables, and dried or evaporated fruits, in glass or earthenware inner containers, are justified, according to a decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, but the Commission has found increases on condensed and evaporated milk similarly packed not justified. In its decision the Commission states:

In the Western and Illinois classifications these articles except milk are now rated the same whether in boxed glass or boxed tin, while in the Official and Southern classifications the ratings are one or more classes higher when in glass than when in tin. In Indian Packing Corporation v. Director General, we found, as to the Official classification, that the less-than-carload ratings for a number of glass-packed foods were unreasonable to the extent they exceeded by more than one numbered class the ratings on the same foods, packed in tin. Defendants in that proceeding undertook to comply with the order by reducing the ratings on the glass-packed foods and increasing those on the tin-packed foods, in such manner as to bring about the prescribed one-class differential. This readjustment was considered in Classification of Canned Goods, 98 I. C. C. 166. We there found in substance that Rule 26 in the Official classification, which corresponds to fourth class in the Western classification, was proper for the cheaper canned goods, including soups, vegetables and condensed milk, in tin, and that third class was proper for certain of the more expensive canned articles, as fruits, in tin.

The revision here under suspension will with two exceptions project into the Western and Illinois classifications, the ratings and the relationship between glass and tin containers which we found proper for the Official classification. One of these exceptions is canned vegetables, in crated glass, which it is proposed to increase from third to second class. That particular type of container was not considered in the two proceedings relating to the Official classification. Throughout the classifications, it is customary to maintain ratings on articles in crated glass one class higher than when in boxed glass and respondents propose that relationship here in the rating for canned vegetables, although they urge that the change is of no practical importance, there being no movement so far as they are aware, of canned vegetables in crated glass. The second exception is condensed milk in boxed glass, which respondents propose to rate two classes higher than condensed milk in boxed tin. They offer no justification for

this proposed departure from the principle of a one-class spread between glass and tin containers which was laid down in the Indian Packing case.

Upon consideration of the evidence, we are of the opinion and find that the proposed increases have been justified, except as to condensed milk, as to which we find the proposed increases not justified. The suspended schedules relating to that commodity will be ordered cancelled without prejudice to the establishment of less-than-carload ratings of third class when shipped in glass or earthenware inner containers, packed in boxes.

#### Association's Representative on Advisory Committee Named

In the larger Advisory Committee which will serve as a point of contact between the Executive Committee authorized by the National Business Survey Conference on December 5, and the various trade associations of the country, Chairman Julius H. Barnes has named R. I. Bentley of San Francisco as representative of the National Cannery Association. The function of this larger Advisory Committee is to transmit to the Executive Committee periodical information as to business conditions and to follow up within the industry suggestions that may come from the Executive Committee.

#### Employment in the Canning Industry

Statistics on canning establishments, from the monthly report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the trend of employment and labor turnover, appear in the December issue of the Monthly Labor Review. The following table furnishes information on the number on payroll and amount of payroll for 542 canning establishments, by geographic divisions, in September and October. Figures for earlier months have appeared in previous numbers of the Information Letter.

Division	Establishments	Number on payroll		Weekly payroll	
		September	October	September	October
New England .....	45	4,840	8,784	\$78,948	\$91,678
Middle Atlantic .....	51	18,728	10,827	280,234	206,847
East North Central ....	139	14,898	7,788	214,588	119,226
West North Central ....	43	5,184	1,792	84,831	28,389
South Atlantic .....	86	5,188	6,211	67,262	49,055
East South Central .....	21	1,349	1,029	10,720	8,495
West South Central ....	10	308	438	8,779	3,810
Mountain .....	84	4,824	2,633	57,517	42,242
Pacific .....	143	31,543	22,902	640,481	416,246
All divisions .....	542	81,016	55,260	1,489,388	930,792

#### Car Loadings

	Total	Merchandise		
		Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Week ended December 21 .....	842,483	282,845	229,484	331,653
Preceding week .....	923,240	319,721	243,002	359,517
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	900,620	316,595	242,578	341,447
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	829,810	276,941	236,043	316,826